

NEWS RELEASE

NELSON P. COHEN UNITED STATES ATTORNEY DISTRICT OF ALASKA

Federal Building & U.S. Courthouse • 222 W. 7th Avenue • Room 253 • Anchorage, AK 99513-7567 • (907) 271-5071

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ANCHORAGE MAN PLEADS GUILTY IN FEDERAL COURT TO CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE DRUGS

Anchorage, Alaska – United States Attorney Nelson P. Cohen announced today, September 4, 2007, that Jeffrey Sanders, a resident of Anchorage, Alaska, pleaded guilty in federal court in Anchorage, to a charge of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances.

Sanders, age 26, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to distribute cocaine and ecstasy before United States District Court Judge Timothy M. Burgess. Nicholas Blackwell, Sinoun Moth, Lamar Facine, and Chase Walters are also named as defendants in the indictment.

In connection with the guilty plea, Special Assistant United States Attorney Erin White advised the court that Sanders had participated in a drug conspiracy involving five other defendants. In December of 2006, co-defendant Blackwell sent a parcel containing approximately 2.5 kilograms of cocaine and 700 ecstasy pills to Anchorage from Seattle. Sanders provided an address for and accepted delivery of the package. Prior to delivery, however, government agents were able to intercept the package. The indictment charges all five defendants involved in this conspiracy with conspiracy to distribute both ecstasy and cocaine.

Judge Burgess scheduled sentencing for November 16, 2007, at 9:00 a.m. The law provides for a maximum total sentence of 5 to 40 years in prison, a fine of 2 million dollars, or both. Under the Federal Sentencing Guidelines, the actual sentence imposed is based upon the seriousness of the offense and the criminal history, if any, of the defendant.

Sanders continues to remain in custody pending sentencing.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation Safe Streets Task Force, comprised of Anchorage Police Department officers and FBI agents, conducted the investigation leading to the conviction in this case. SAUSA White is one of two prosecutors in the U.S. Attorney's Office who are funded by the Municipality of Anchorage for the purpose of prosecuting gang-related and violent crime cases.

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